



# Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2007  
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## LOUISVILLE AREA TRIO INDICTED ON DRUG CHARGES

LOUISVILLE, KY - A federal grand jury in Louisville returned an indictment on August 7, 2007, against **Ronald Jefferies**, age 33, of Louisville, Kentucky; **Rickey Calloway**, age 33, and **Luciana Meadoweal**, age 31, of Hopewell, Virginia, on charges of drug trafficking, David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today.

The Superseding Indictment charges that in or about September 2001 until on or about February 5, 2007, Jefferies, Calloway, and Meadoweal conspired with others to distribute cocaine.

In December 2006, Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD) officers began investigating Jefferies and Calloway when they observed a 1998 Lincoln Town Car, which both Jefferies and Calloway had been observed driving on different occasions, parked in front of a known "stash house," in Louisville. LMPD officers also observed a black Nissan Titan with Kentucky license plates parked behind the Lincoln Town Car at the suspected stash house.

On December 18, 2006, law enforcement officers in St. Martin Parish, Louisiana, conducted a vehicle stop of the Lincoln Town Car, which was being driven by Meadoweal, the third defendant. A search of the vehicle led to the recovery of 9 kilograms of powder cocaine with a street value of \$900,000 dollars and \$80,000 in U.S. currency.

The next day, LMPD officers executed a search warrant at the residence of Calloway in Louisville and recovered two firearms and approximately \$27,000. As a result, Calloway is also being charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm, having been convicted of drug trafficking and possession of a controlled substance in Jefferson Circuit Court, Jefferson County, Kentucky, in July 1994 and March 1997.

In January 2007, an officer approached Jefferies, who was driving the black Nissan Titan, and executed a search of Jefferies which led to the seizure of \$6,500 in total from his person and truck; \$5,250 of that total amount was recovered from Jefferies' pocket.

On February 5, 2007, LMPD officers executed a search warrant at the stash house. During that search, officers recovered approximately 900 grams of suspected powder cocaine having a street value of \$90,000 and approximately 29 grams of suspected crack cocaine having a street value of \$2,900.. Additionally, officers found \$3,000 and approximately 15 individual pieces of kilo wrapping material in the trash, digital scales and plastic bags. No one appeared to live in the house and there was no furniture.

The total amount of cash seized from these 3 defendants was \$116,500. Police officers also seized a total of 9,900 grams of powder cocaine and 29 grams of cocaine base also known as “crack” cocaine. The combined street value of all these drugs is approximately \$992,900.

In the event of a conviction, the maximum potential penalties are not less than 10 years and not more than life imprisonment, a \$4,000,000 fine, and supervised release for not less than 5 years.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert J. Kilmartin. The Louisville Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives conducted the investigation, as part of their mandated mission to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

**This is a Project Backfire prosecution. Project Backfire** is a cooperative effort by the Jefferson County Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County Commonwealth's Attorneys Office, the Louisville Metro Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the United States Attorney's Office to ensure that firearm offenses are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the state and federal law.

Jefferies, Calloway, and Meadoweal are scheduled to appear for arraignment before the United States Magistrate Judge on August 21, 2007, at 9:15 a.m.

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The indictment of a person by a Grand Jury is an accusation only and that person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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